



Dear Fellow Arkansan,

Our state is known for its natural beauty, drawing thousands of visitors each year for camping, fishing, and outdoor recreation. Tragically, twenty visitors to Camp Albert Pike lost their lives after severe rain resulted in flash flooding early Friday. My heartfelt condolences go out to their families, friends, and loved ones and I will continue to pray that they find peace and consolation.

I have always had the utmost respect for our law enforcement, first responders, search and rescue teams and offices of emergency management. I have never been more impressed than in seeing their monumental effort during this tragedy. These brave men and women put their own safety at risk to search for survivors and victims, and they demonstrated amazing competence and dedication.

I was personally moved, as once again, Arkansans rallied to help their neighbors. While most of the victims of this disaster were from outside the boundaries of our state, local citizens embraced them with love and true compassion.

It was heartbreaking to hear the stories of those who struggled to make it out alive – and those who were not so fortunate. There were many true heroes – of all ages – early Friday morning. Many of those heroes continued to rescue others even when they knew members of their own families had perished and in the face of unbelievable personal danger.

At my request, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell joined me Saturday for a tour of the area, along with Senator Mark Pryor and Representative Mike Ross. [You can see photos of our visit here.](#)

As Chairman of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee, which has jurisdiction over Camp Albert Pike and all of our national forests, I am in constant contact with Agriculture Secretary Vilsack and Forest Service Chief Tidwell to fight for the resources we need as our state recovers. I will also continue to work closely with local and state officials to monitor the situation

As always, please feel free to [contact me](#) with your comments, suggestions and concerns. I look forward to hearing from you.

With Arkansas Pride,  
Blanche L. Lincoln

*P.S. You may have noticed that the Lincoln eLetter has not been appearing in your in-box recently. According to U.S. Senate Internet Services Usage Rules and Policies, my office was not able to distribute e-newsletters and certain other forms of communication for the 60 day period immediately before the date of a primary or general election. You can now expect to see the Lincoln eLetter in your in-box at least every other week.*

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